

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited Seto and Loce patents. In response, independent Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and new Claims 9-12 have been added, wherein Applicants believe that all of the claims as now presented are patentably distinct over the prior art.

In particular, the present invention relates to anti-aliasing processing. After print image data is expanded (over-sampled) at a resolution higher than the actual resolution of an image output device, the high-resolution image data is converted to data having a resolution identical with the actual resolution of the image output device. As a result, the low-resolution image data obtained is output from the image output device. According to the present invention, when the conventional anti-aliasing processing is applied, the following problem is prevented from occurring.

With image data in the stage where it has been over-sampled at a high resolution, an area in which conditions are the same is handled under different conditions in resolution conversion processing when the area is subjected to a resolution conversion and converted to low resolution. As a result, a conversion is made to different image formation states (density). Therefore, the claimed invention includes the step of:

forming an image represented by image data,
which has undergone the resolution
conversion performed at said resolution
conversion step, based upon the laser
exposure set in such a manner that density of
image data will be the same before and after
the resolution conversion performed by the
prescribed low-resolution conversion.

It should be noted that the “resolution conversion performed by the prescribed low-resolution conversion” relates to a conversion to low resolution after a conversion to high resolution has been performed.

Referring now to the cited references, the Seto patent discloses expanding input RGB bit data of 300 dpi, interpolating an image of 300 dpi to an image of 600 dpi, and converting 300 dpi RGB bit data to 300 dpi YMCK multiple-value bit data and further converting the converted data to 600 dpi YMCK multiple-value data to be outputted to the engine (corresponding to the laser emission). The Loce reference, on the other hand, discloses making the number of occurrences on an input template one-half when a filter that achieves the same input/output density relationship is designed, in selection of the filter that converts input low-resolution bitmap data to high-resolution bitmap data. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited Seto and Loce patents merely disclose converting low-resolution data to high-resolution data in accordance with performance of a printer engine. Therefore, there is no mention of the anti-aliasing processing as required in the claimed invention.

In addition, the cited references do not assume the anti-aliasing processing, so that understandably, the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

For these reasons Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/John A. Krause/
John A. Krause
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 1638315v1